

Application No.: 10/594,161
Amendment Dated: January 9, 2012
Reply to Office Action of: October 7, 2011

MAT-8897US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3, 11, and 12 are presently pending. Claim 1 is amended herein to include the features of claim 10, and claim 10 is cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Uchida (JP 2003-308783) in view of Nunomura (US 6,479,932) and Kim (US 2005/0067964). Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable over the applied references for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the applied references, namely:

...plural data electrodes...including a middle portion having a first constant width [and] opposite end portions having a second constant width...and...

...a plurality of barrier ribs...

...wherein...the second constant width is not more than a half of a spacing between the adjacent two of the barrier ribs...

The data electrodes have a middle portion with a first constant width and opposite end portions having a second constant width. The second constant width is not more than half of the spacing between adjacent barrier ribs. This feature is found in the originally filed application at page 16, lines 17-18. No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references fail to disclose, teach, or suggest at least the above features of claim 1.

Uchida is directed to a plasma display panel. As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 3, for example, Uchida discloses a plasma display panel having a plurality of rear electrodes 1A and 1C. Rear electrodes 1A and 1C are wide at a top portion and narrow at a bottom portion. See Uchida at FIGS. 1 and 3.

The Office Action acknowledges that "Uchida...teaches all the claimed limitations except for the second constant width is not more than a half of a spacing between adjacent two barrier ribs." See the Office Action at page 5. Applicants agree.

Uchida fails to disclose, teach, or suggest an electrode having opposite end portions that are wider than a middle portion. Further, Uchida provides no teaching regarding the width of end portions of an electrode relative to the spacing between adjacent barrier ribs. This is different from claim 1, which requires that the width of the end portions of the electrodes be not more than half of the spacing between adjacent barrier ribs.

Applicants respectfully submit that Nunomura fails to make up for the deficiencies of Uchida with respect to claim 1.

Nunomura is also directed to a plasma display panel. As illustrated in FIG. 21, Nunomura discloses a plasma display panel having data electrodes 16. Data electrodes 16 have wide portions 33 and narrow portions 34. See Nunomura at column 13, lines 10-29, and FIG. 21.

The Office Action asserts that "as can be seen (in at least fig. 16 of [Nunomura]) the second constant width 33 appears to be about half of the distance between adjacent barrier ribs." See Office Action at page 5. Applicants disagree for two reasons.

First, FIG. 16 of Nunomura illustrates that wide portions 33 have a width that is more than half of the spacing between adjacent barrier ribs. Second, regardless of the measurements of the figures themselves, Nunomura fails to disclose, teach, or suggest that its figures are drawn to scale. "When the reference does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and is silent as to dimensions, arguments based on measurement of the drawing features are of little value." See M.P.E.P. § 2125. Because Nunomura is silent as to the dimensions of wide portions 33 relative to the spacing between barrier ribs, Applicants submit that the Office Action's arguments based on the figures of Nunomura cannot be used to reject the claims.

The Office Action further asserts that "[i]t would have been obvious...to form the second constant width not more than a half of the spacing between adjacent two barrier ribs through routine experimentation and optimization, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art." See Office Action at page 5. Applicants disagree.

Nunomura provides no teaching regarding the width of end portions of an electrode relative to the spacing between adjacent barrier ribs. "A particular parameter must first be recognized as a result-effective variable, i.e., a variable which achieves a recognized result, before the determination of the optimum or workable ranges of said variable might be characterized as routine experimentation." Nunomura fails to recognize that the ratio of an electrode's end portion width to the spacing of adjacent barrier ribs is a variable which achieves a recognized result (i.e. a result-effective variable). Thus, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would have no reason to optimize this variable based on the teachings of Nunomura. As such, Applicants submit that the ratio recited in claim 10 is not obvious in view of Nunomura.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kim fails to make up for the deficiencies of Uchida and Nunomura with respect to claim 1.

Kim is also directed to a plasma display panel. As illustrated in FIG. 6, Kim discloses a plasma display panel having address electrodes 521, 522, 523. Address electrode 521 corresponds to a blue discharge cell 550B, while address electrode 522 corresponds to a red discharge cell 550R. Address electrode 521 includes a prominent electrode 561 which is wider than a corresponding prominent electrode 562 of address electrode 522. See Kim at paragraphs [0046]-[0050] and FIG. 6.

Like Uchida and Nunomura, Kim provides no teaching regarding the width of end portions of an electrode relative to the spacing between adjacent barrier ribs. This is different from claim 1, which requires that the width of the end portions of the electrodes be not more than half of the spacing between adjacent barrier ribs.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Uchida in view of Nunomura and Kim fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the features of "plural data

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electrodes...including...opposite end portions having a second constant width...and...a plurality of barrier ribs...wherein...the second constant width is not more than a half of a spacing between the adjacent two of the barrier ribs," as recited in claim 1.

It is because Applicants' invention includes the above features that the following advantages are achieved. "By setting the dimensions in this way, data electrodes 10 are reliably disposed between barrier ribs 11." See the originally filed application at page 16, lines 19-20.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is allowable over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 11, while not identical to claim 1, includes the allowable features discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable over the applied references for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 12 include all of the features of claims 1 and 11, respectively, from which they depend. Accordingly, claims 3 and 12 also allowable over the applied references for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 11. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 3 and 12 is respectfully requested.

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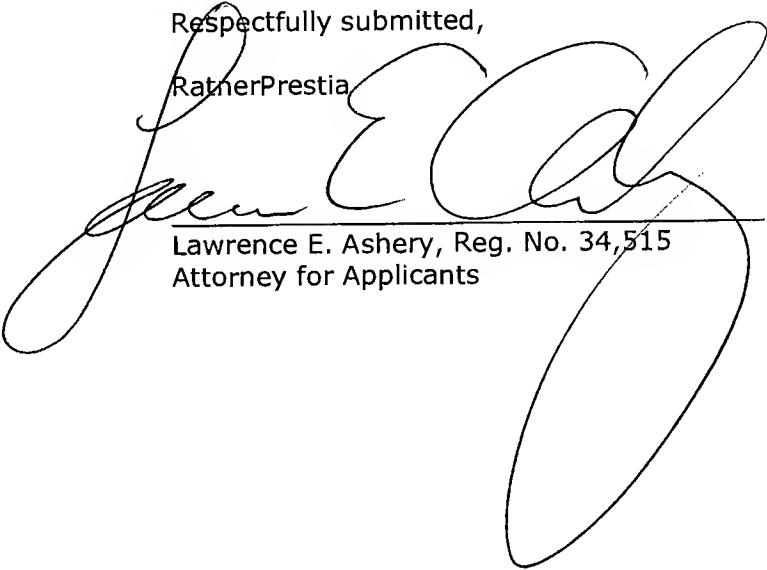
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Conclusion:

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatherPrestia


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

AJK/sep

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

SH_1386645